

Time-Critical Removal Action to Dispose of Retrieved Waste from a Hanford Burial Ground

U.S. Department of Energy Washington State Department of Ecology U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Washington State Department of Ecology (the Tri-Party Agreement agencies) would like your feedback on documents comprising the administrative record file for a time-critical removal action to dispose of low-level and mixed low-level wastes. These wastes are being generated during the retrieval of suspect transuranic (TRU) waste from the burial ground 218-W-4C.

Background

Since 1970, approximately 37,400 suspect TRU waste containers were placed in retrievable storage in the 200 Area at the Hanford site. Approximately 18,000 drums (55 gallon) and 400 other containers of waste are retrievably stored in low-level burial ground 218-W-4C. The majority of the waste containers in 218-W-4C are stacked vertically on asphalt pads in earthen-covered trenches. The waste container contents include failed process equipment such as pumps, resin columns, laboratory and room trash such as paper, plastics, glassware, and decontamination and demolition rubble such as concrete, piping and soils. In general, the retrieval operation begins by uncovering a container, reviewing any disposal history or process knowledge, and performing non-destructive assay to determine the plutonium content in the container. If the container is determined to be TRU waste, it is transported to compliant storage and considered outside the scope of this action. If the container is determined to be mixed low-level waste, additional treatment will be required prior to disposal. Both low-level and mixed low-level waste will be disposed of in lined trenches.

Activities undertaken

USDOE is required to retrieve this post-1970 suspect TRU waste based on a schedule contained in the Tri-Party Agreement M-91 milestones. The agencies are disposing of



Retrieval operations at the 218-W-4C low-level burial ground

the non-TRU waste generated from retrieving 218-W-4C burial ground waste in the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility (ERDF), provided that it meets the facility's waste acceptance criteria. Waste that is designated as mixed low-level waste will be evaluated to determine if it meets land disposal restrictions, and if not, will be treated at the ERDF or at a commercial facility. In addition to the 218-W-4C burial ground, there are three other burial grounds with retrievably stored post-1970 suspect TRU waste (218-E-12B, 218-W-3A and 218-W-4B). The treatment and disposal of low-level waste and mixed low-level waste retrieved from these three burial grounds and 400 other containers of waste in 218-W-4C will be analyzed in future Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) documents that will have a public comment period.

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PUBLIC COMMENT

The Tri-Party agencies want your feedback on the Administrative Record file for this Time-Critical Removal Action.

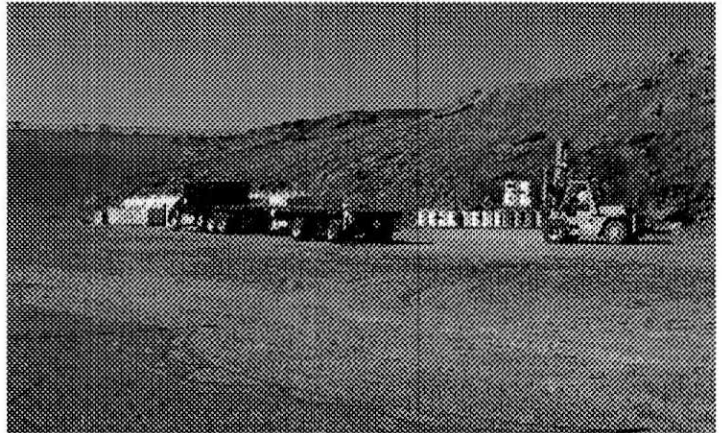
The public comment period will run from June 20 through July 20, 2005.



Fact Sheet

Time-Critical Removal Action

The agencies are performing this work as a Time-Critical Removal Action (TCRA) in accordance with the CERCLA. The TCRA is used to expedite response actions and, therefore, does not require an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis or public comment period prior to the approval of the action through an Action Memorandum. This action is necessary to protect public health, welfare or the environment by facilitating the rapid recovery, treatment and disposal into lined trenches of the low-level and mixed low-level waste generated as a result of suspect TRU retrieval.



Disposal operations at the Environmental Restoration Disposal Facility

Feedback on the administrative record file documents

A 30-day public comment period on the administrative record file for this time-critical removal action will run from **June 20 through July 20, 2005**. The documents that comprise the administrative record file for this action include:

Action Memorandum	(D6853085)	Waste Control Plan	(DA096978)
Data Quality Objectives	(DA096834)	Value Engineering Study	(DA096996)
Sampling and Analysis Plan	(DA096931)	M-91 Change Package	(D5100949)
Removal Action Workplan	(DA096803)		

The Administrative Record Accession numbers (by which the document can be accessed) are in parenthesis. The Tri-Party agencies want your feedback on the adequacy and completeness of the administrative record file for this action. Your feedback will be considered in future burial ground retrieval and disposal actions.

Please submit comments to:

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To obtain a copy of the documents call the Hanford Cleanup Line 1-800-321-2008.

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The documents can be viewed online at <http://www.hanford.gov/public/calendar/>
under the Public Comment Period section

The documents are also available for review at the
Public Information Repositories listed below.

HANFORD PUBLIC INFORMATION REPOSITORY LOCATIONS

Portland

Portland State University
Branford Price and Millar Library
934 SW Harrison
Attn: Judy Andrews (503) 725-4126

Seattle

University of Washington
Suzzallo Library
Government Publications Division
Attn: Eleanor Chase (206) 543-4664

Richland

U.S. Department of Energy Public Reading Room
Washington State University, Tri-Cities
Consolidated Information Center, Room 101-L
2770 University Drive
Attn: Janice Parthree (509) 372-7443

Spokane

Gonzaga University Foley Center
East 502 Boone
Attn: Linda Pierce (509) 323-6110

Administrative Record and Public Information Repository:
Address: 2440 Stevens Center Place, Room 1101, Richland, WA.
Phone: 509-376-2530
Web site address: <http://www2.hanford.gov/arpir/>

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